12/16/94

Dear Hugh,

If when you phoned you'd told me you were at KGO I could have told you a few stories of about 1966-7. I was there often. Interviewed in the lobby before the station opened by Pia Lindstrom and that enormous but quite silent dog of hers....Did the Owen Spann radio talk show whenever I was there. Lee Raschall then the g.m. paid me a high compliment and demonstrated a remarkable memory. He was with UP in Washington in 1942 and I was the correspondent of the then third largest picture magazine. I was doing Nazi cartel exposes and so was he. He remembered that on a magazine I'd "beat my pants off" as he said on my expose of Schering, then a Nazi outfit disguised through two Swiss banks....Spann's show ended at 4 p.m. I think it began at 2, maybe earlier. While I was doing it I got a peremptory demand from the then tough-guy star TV reporter, Sam Banks, that I leave then and there so he could interview for the evening news. He'd missed my press conference. I think he did that on purpose so he could get me alone. He had just created a sensation by exposing homosexuals on Reagan's staff in Sacramento. Real tough he thought. I said I'd given Owen my word and I'd be ready at 4. In those days there was construction work going on to the left of the station as one faced the street. I walked past that to the corner, then crossed diagonally and there in a long barren room was Sam with his cameraman. He had his back to the camera (as did Pia, with her beautiful face unseen) and he started some real dirty questions. I answered him in kind. After a few of them, plus. When in a very brief period I had really done him in, he dropped the mike and his shoulders and walked to the camera saying weakly, that's it. Word that he'd been given a dose of his own and couldn't handle it preceded us back there, me and the one who led me there. It was all over the newsroom when we got back there. But Sam was not visible. There was great excitement until the film was ready and then there was a showing of it. Everyone enjoyed it. The then news director, I think his name was Roger-he went to the net and it sent him to Moscow, as I recall - called me into his office and asked me to help him with a lead into it. I said you're not going to show that! He said, yes, I am. So when he could not get started I suggested something like this: Sam Banks is our tough investigative reporter. At one time Harold Weisberg was a farmer. He is now writing about the JFK assassination. They met today. This is what happened. They did not air it and I did not get the sound tape I'd been promised. From the time he left the cameraman until after I had left SF Bank was not in the station. He got himself assigned by phone to covering the Shirley Temple campaign for Congress....Used to do the Jim Eason show by phone. He's changed. I wrote him when Case Open appeared and he did not even respond. He was then a wide-open anything-goes kind of guy....Except for Banks everyone out there was wonderful to me. Except the owner of a famous downtown book store on which he used his name, PAUL ELDER. Sold it to Doubleday not long after I last was there. He'd ordered 200 of Whitewash II to be sent by air. He sold them all one afternoon when I started signing them after the Spann show. He then asked for the 50 I was carrying for press copies. He sold them, too. And never paid me!

For anything!

I think the time I taught Banky not to throw shit at anyone used to handle it by the shovel-full I stayed with Jean Hitchcock. She'd been one of JFK's lady friends. We were to do an oral history when I returned. But I never did, and then she died. Struck me as a fine woman, besides looking good....Harv Morgan moved to KGO-TV News after leaving KCBS all-talk radio. Fine fellow. Used to do his radio show by phone, any time a guest did not show up or whenever Harv had Laryngitis. His wife Judy would phone me and line it up. and Harv could save his voice for the commercials and a few words now and then. Wonderful people. Used to spend a night with them whenever I was out there. ...First time I did his show a man called in and started to red-bait me. They were going to cut him off. I insisted that he speak. He knew nothing about me and there was nothing bad to know. By the time he gave up it had gotten to be quite exciting. Next night I spoke at the Hall of the Flowers in Golden gate park. SRO! Later I got FBI records saying he was its symbol informer. He did not get Brownie Points for that one!

Enough reminiscing. I appreciate your letter very much. And thanks for the tip. I fear they are suppressing NEVER AGAIN! Could easily have appeared before 7/92. When I complained it was promised for this past September. It was not printed then. It instead was promised for this coming march. Taken out of the computer for September and not put back in for March. I wrote and asked 3-4 weeks ago and have no response.

Be cautions as you read most of the books. remember, the reader is the captive of the author unless he had solid knowledge and can be his own devil's advocate.

Best wishes,

Harold

Harold Weisberg